

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

David J. Long, et al.

Serial No.: 10/040,500

Filed on: December 28, 2001

) Confirmation No.: 3700
)
) Examiner: Thuy Chan DAO
)
) Group Art Unit No.: 2192
)

For: CATEGORIES ON A PER INSTANCE BASIS

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

- ☒ The Examiner is hereby notified that for the following related application an Office Action has been received as indicated below:

DISCLOSURE OF OFFICE ACTION

U.S. Application/ Pat. No.	File Date	Office Action Mailing Date	Atty. Docket. No.
10/452,164	05/30/2003	08/03/2006	50277-1750

The related application may contain one or more claims that may be substantially similar to one or more claims in the present application, and those claims may have been rejected in the related application. Therefore, the Examiner is encouraged to review the file history of the related application as some of the information contained therein may be material to the examination of the present application.

Enclosed is a copy of Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO-1449 together with copies of the documents cited on that form, if needed. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, the submission of this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made and is not to be construed as an admission that the information cited in this statement is material to patentability.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, this Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted under the following (as indicated by an "X" to the left of the paragraph):



37 C.F.R. §1.97(c). If so, then this Information Disclosure Statement includes one of the following:



A statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e)



1.97(e)(1) The undersigned hereby states that each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.



1.97(e)(2) The undersigned hereby states that no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.



A check for \$180.00 for the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).


It is respectfully requested that the cited documents be considered and that the enclosed Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO-1449 be initialed by the Examiner to indicate such consideration and a copy thereof returned to applicant(s).

Throughout the pendency of this application, please charge any additional fees, including any required extension of time fees, and credit all overpayments to deposit account 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP

Dated: October 20, 2006



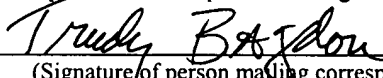
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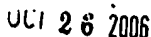
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 20, 2006

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Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1

of 1

Application Number 10/040,500
Filing Date December 28, 2001
First Named Inventor DAVID J. LONG
Art Unit 2192
Examiner Name THUY CHAN DAO
Attorney Docket Number 50277-1767

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Date
Considered

¹ EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ² Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ³ See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ⁴ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁵ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁶ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁷ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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Customer Ref. No. **OID 2001-126-01**